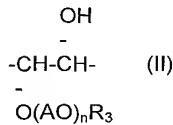


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds of the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements of the formula

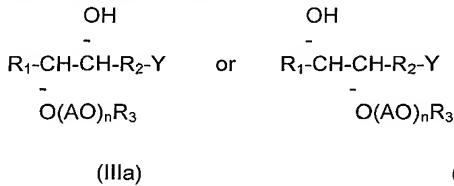


where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

2-10. Previously Deleted.

11. (Previously Added) Nonionic compounds of claim 1 containing 1-2 structure elements according to formula (II).

12. (Currently Amended) Nonionic compounds of the general formulae



where R_1 is an aliphatic group, R_2 is an aliphatic radical, the sum of carbon atoms contained in R_1 and R_2 is between 9 and 19; Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

13. **(Previously Added)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
14. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 11 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
15. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 12 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
16. **(Previously Amended)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.
17. **(Currently Added)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 11 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.
18. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 12 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.
19. **(Previously Added)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where n is 3-20 and R₃ is methyl or ethyl.
20. **Currently Deleted.**
21. **Currently Deleted.**
22. **(Previously Added)** A method of producing the polyoxyalkylene nonionic compound of claim 1 compounds which comprises
 - a) reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula R₃O(AO)_nH, where R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group

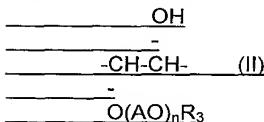
containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

23. **Currently Deleted.**

24. **(Currently Amended)** A surfactant composition which comprises an a cleaning effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 1.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The surfactant composition of claim 23 24 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces, vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.

26. **(Currently Added)** A method of producing nonionic compounds of the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements of the formula



where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, said method comprising:

reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula R₃O(AO)_nH, where R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

27. **(Currently Added)** A nonionic compound produced by the method of claim 26.
28. **(Currently Added)** A surfactant composition which comprises a cleaning effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 27.
29. **(Currently Added)** The surfactant composition of claim 28 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces, vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.